

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 06813 01 OF 02 290644Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 HA-05 IO-13
DODE-00 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /122 W
-----107172 290652Z /10

R 281830Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5663
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 06813

USEEC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 06813 01 OF 02 290644Z

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, UK, ILO

SUBJECT: AMNESTY SUPPORT FOR TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN
SOVIET UNION

REF: BRUSSELS 7816

SUMMARY: BRITISH SECTION OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS VIGOROUSLY CAMPAIGNING IN BRITAIN TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR SOVIET WORKERS SEEKING REDRESS UNDER SOVIET LAW "FOR THE MANY ABUSES OF BASIC TRADE UNION RIGHTS." AMNESTY NOW HAS APPROXIMATELY 30 UNIONS AS AFFILIATES. AMNESTY SOURCES STATE THE AMNESTY STRATEGY IS TO FUNCTION THROUGH TRADE UNION AND RELATED CHANNELS, E.G., THE TUC, THE ILO, AND THE LABOR PARTY. AMNESTY OFFICIALS SAY THEY ARE SURPRISED AT THE DEGREE OF RESPONSE FROM THEIR TRADE UNION AFFILIATES TO PRESS THE SOVIETS ON TRADE UNION RIGHTS. THUS FAR AS EXPECTED, THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE TO BRITISH APPROACHES. THE TUC HAS BEEN FURNISHED WITH DOCUMENTATION BY AMNESTY BUT THUS FAR HAS TAKEN NO POSITION AS TO WHAT IT INTENDS TO DO. END SUMMARY.

1. PAT DUFFY, TRADE UNION OFFICER OF BRITISH SECTION OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ADVISES THAT AMNESTY INTENDS TO PRESS VIGOROUSLY THE CAUSE OF SOVIET WORKERS "TO WIN REDRESS FOR THE MANY ABUSES OF BASIC TRADE UNION RIGHTS... EMBODIED IN SOVIET LAW." DUFFY, 38, A LABOR PARTY MEMBER, "SOMEWHERE ON THE LEFT", ONE-TIME PIPE-FITTER AND FORMER MILITANT AUEW SHOP STEWARD, DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A "SOCIALIST" WHOSE MAIN PREOCCUPATION IS WITH "DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS", AND WHO HAS HAD ENOUGH OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 06813 01 OF 02 290644Z

"THE DOUBLE STANDARD" WHICH HAS SKEWED THE PERSPECTIVE OF BRITISH LABOR. DUFFY, WHO APPEARS TO BE THE MAIN (AND ALMOST TIRELESS) ORGANIZER AND STRATEGIST OF THE AMNESTY CAMPAIGN TOOK OVER HIS CURRENT JOB ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO.

2. THE AMNESTY STRATEGY, DUFFY EXPLAINS, IS THAT THE SOVIET WORKERS' CAUSE SHOULD BE FOUGHT ON THE GROUNDS OF BASIC TRADE UNION RIGHTS THROUGH TRADE UNION AND ORGANIZATIONALLY-RELATED CHANNELS AND INDIVIDUALS, E.G., THE TUC, THE ILO, THE LABOR PARTY, TRADE UNION LEADERS, AND TRADE UNION MPS.

3. IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A CLIMATE OF ACCEPTANCE AS WELL AS GAIN MAXIMUM LEVERAGE WITHIN BRITISH ORGANIZED LABOR, DUFFY INITIALLY HAS CONCENTRATED ON TRYING TO DRAW SUPPORT FROM INDIVIDUALS AND UNIONS WITH "LEFT WING" REPUTATIONS AND "FAINT-HEARTED MODERATES" WHO, IN THE PAST, HAVE SHIED FROM "OFFENDING" EAST EUROPEAN "TRADE UNIONS". HIS TACTIC THEREAFTER IS TO EXTEND THE TRADE UNION BASE ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. IN ACCORD WITH THIS APPROACH, ELECTRICIANS' GENERAL SECRETARY

FRANK CHAPPLE, WHILE ON RECORD AS WILLING TO SUPPORT
THE AMNESTY CAMPAIGN, IS REMAINING IN THE BACKGROUND.

4. DUFFY, WHOSE ENTHUSIASM MAY IN SOME DEGREE OUTFRAN
HIS SUCCESS CLAIMS IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, AMNESTY HAS
WON VARIOUS DEGREES OF AFFILIATION OF MORE THAN 30
TRADE UNIONS -- AMONG THEM CHAPPLE'S ELECTRICAL WORKERS,
MAJOR SECTIONS OF THE AUEW. THE TGWU, THE MAJOR RAILWAY
UNIONS, MAJOR PUBLIC SERVICE UNIONS, THE MINERS, THE
PRINTING UNIONS, STEEL WORKERS, AND OTHERS OF GREATER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 06813 02 OF 02 290558Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 HA-05 IO-13
DODE-00 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /122 W

-----106634 290651Z /10

R 281830Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5664
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 06813

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 06813 02 OF 02 290558Z

OR LESSER IMPORTANCE. INDEPENDENT INFORMATION SEEMS TO CONFIRM HIS CLAIM. DUFFY INDICATES SURPRISE AT THE EXTENT OF RESPONSE BY INDIVIDUAL UNIONS AND UNION LEADERS TO THE AMNESTY APPEAL TO EXPRESS CONCERN TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES OVER THE TREATMENT OF WORKERS IN THE SOVIET UNION SEEKING REMEDIES OVER ABUSES OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS PURPORTEDLY GUARANTEED UNDER SOVIET LAW. APPROACHES HAVE TAKEN THE FORM OF LETTERS FROM UNION GENERAL SECRETARIES TO BREZHNEV, TO AUCCTU SECRETARY SHIBAYEV, TO OPPOSITE NUMBER CONTACTS IN SOVIET LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN LONDON AND QUERIES AT MEETINGS WHERE BRITISH TRADE UNIONISTS MEET SOVIET LABOR OFFICIALS. ONLY A FEW UNION LEADERS HAVE THUS FAR BEEN WILLING TO GO PUBLIC, E.G., AUEW GENERAL SECRETARY JOHN BOYD, NALGO GENERAL SECRETARY GEOFFREY DRAIN, NUR GENERAL SECRETARY SID WEIGHELL. JOHN BOYD WHO TELLS US HIS LETTER IS FREE FOR PUBLICATION WROTE THE FOLLOWING TO BREZHNEV, SHIBAYEV, AND TO M.P. GEORGADZE (PRESUMABLY HIS RUSSIAN OPPOSITE NUMBER):QUOTE - MY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ARE GREATLY PERTURBED AT THE INFORMATION NOW BEING CIRCULATED HERE IN BRITAIN REGARDING YOUR GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF A SIZEABLE GROUP OF WORKERS WHO CALL THEMSELVES "THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS OF WORKERS IN THE SOVIET UNION". PARTICULARLY ARE WE WORRIED ABOUT THE SO-CALLED "PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT" TO WHICH THEY ARE BEING SUBJECTED AND WOULD ASK YOU IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY TO INTERVENE AND CONCEDE TO THOSE WORKERS THE NORMAL FREEDOM THAT THE WORKING CLASS IN ANY COUNTRY SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO ENJOY. UNQUOTE.

5. ACCORDING TO DUFFY, AMNESTY IS NOW SEEKING BY LEAKS TO THE GENERAL PRESS, AS WELL AS BY AGITATION AMONG
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 06813 02 OF 02 290558Z

INDIVIDUAL UNIONS AND THEIR BRANCHES, TO FORCE A GROWTH OF PUBLIC COMMITMENT. TO SOME EXTENT, HE MAY HAVE BEEN ASSISTED BY THE ABSENCE OF RESPONSES TO THE VARIOUS

APPROACHES BY BRITISH TRADE UNIONISTS AND A LENGTHY TASS COMMENTARY OF APRIL 2L, L978 PICKED UP BY BBC MONITORING SERVICE ON AN APRIL 24 BROADCAST BY YURIY KORNILOV. KORNILOV DENOUNCED BRITISH NEWSPAPER REPORTS (PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE LONDON OBSERVER) CONCERNING "A CERTAIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS IN THE SOVIET UNION... AS TWADDLE FROM BEGINNING TO END".

6. ACCORDING TO DUFFY, AMNESTY HAS HAD DIFFICULTIES IN GAINING THE ATTENTION OF THE TUC FOR MORE THAN A MONTH. AMNESTY HAS PROVIDED TUC WITH DOCUMENTATION IN THE ORIGINAL RUSSIAN OF THE CASES INVOLVING THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE TRADE UNION WORKERS IN THE SOVIET UNION AS WELL AS OF OTHER GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SUFFERED ABUSES OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS UNDER SOVIET LAW INCLUDING THOSE CONFINED TO PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS FOR PROTESTING TOO VIGOROUSLY. AT THIS POINT, THE TUC OFFICIAL POSTURE IS THAT IT WISHES TO STUDY THE DOCUMENTATION, LEARN MORE ABOUT WHATEVER OTHER FACTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE. ACCORDING TO THE HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, TUC INTENDS TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY. WE ARE INFORMED THAT THE MATTER HAS NOT YET BEEN PUT BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OR THE GENERAL COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION. THE HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT DID NOT INDICATE WHAT POSTURE THE TUC MIGHT TAKE AT THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN HAMBURG MAY 17-19. BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, LABOR UNIONS, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON06813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780183-0682
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978045/aaaaadzb.tel
Line Count: 251
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 448212ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 7816
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2947878
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMNESTY SUPPORT FOR TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN SOVIET UNION
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, UK, ILO, MNESTY INTERNATIONAL
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/448212ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014